

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re US Utility Patent Application of )  
SHIBATA et al. )  
Attorney Docket No: SHO 1008-01US )  
Filed: Herewith, February 5, 2002 )  
For: DRIP ABSORPTION MAT ) February 5, 2002  
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Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

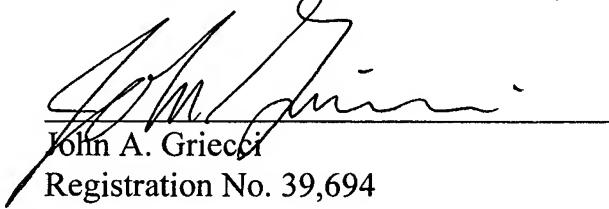
CLAIM OF FOREIGN PRIORITY

Dear Sir:

Applicants claim the right of foreign priority based on the following applications:

- 1) Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-028776, filed on February 5, 2001; and
- 2) Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-401377, filed on December 28, 2001.

Respectfully submitted for the Applicants by,

  
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